



# Mn/DOT POLICY POSITION STATEMENT

**Date:** May 2, 1984

**Revised:** February 12, 2003

**Reference:** Highways (including  
Bikeways) 6.2  
Roadside Maintenance  
Use of Herbicides

## **Position Statement:**

Mn/DOT is required by Minnesota Statutes Section 160.23 (2002) to control or destroy noxious weeds on its right-of-way. In addition, brush and other vegetation which impede highway drainage or presents visibility and safety problems to the traveling public must be controlled. In order to control such noxious weeds and unwanted vegetation, the application of certain herbicides has proven to be necessary as one of the tools in an integrated approach. This position statement sets forth policy to follow and establishes responsibility for the safe application of herbicides on highway right-of-way.

## **Background:**

The goal of this position statement is to promote the judicious use of herbicides on highway right-of-way which is consistent with local needs and concerns.

Because of their effectiveness, herbicides play an important role for controlling noxious weeds and brush along roadsides. In rural agricultural areas, herbicides are effective for controlling noxious weeds which pose problems to, or may become an economic threat to the agricultural community. In rural forested and wooded areas, herbicides are effective for controlling brush which may restrict sight distance, create snow and icy conditions, or may become an obstacle to a vehicle leaving the roadway. In urban areas, herbicides are effective for controlling weed infested areas which represent a nuisance to the community. Mn/DOT is committed to using the least toxic, efficacious pesticides available for controlling identified pest species. Herbicides selection and use shall be based upon scientific information, including but not limited to, efficacy on targets to be controlled, environmental fate, and toxicity. Selection and use of herbicides is further governed by state and federal laws and regulations. Herbicides selected and used are to be applied by licensed applicators except as allowed in the herbicide policy guidelines adopted here under. All applications shall be in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and label instructions.

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**Douglas H. Differt, Deputy Commissioner and  
Chief Engineer**

**Any questions regarding this position statement should be directed to:**

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